

to have family and friends following in his legacy of law and law enforcement, Ret. United States Postal Inspector, Samuel Huntley, Jr., New Orleans Police Captain, Michelle Woodfork and United States Magistrate, Judge Dana M. Douglas.

Chief Woodfork was appointed in 1985 by the city's first Black mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial and served a second term under the next mayor, Sidney Barthelemy before retiring in 1991. He was previously employed as a postal clerk and also served his country in the United States Air Force before his 28 year career in law enforcement. Chief Woodfork became the first commander of the Felony Action Squad, which operated for 10 years beginning in 1972.

He was also instrumental in making the Police Department's district captains accessible to neighborhood residents and business owners. Chief Woodfork, a product of the Callopie and Lafitte Housing developments, believed in community engagement. He saw the future of community policing by increasing the visibility of top-ranking officers in their district area and facilitating the regular and open exchange of information between the department with the people and businesses. This was a huge shift in tone for the department and was an innovative practice that brought a lot of success.

A trailblazer in his own right, Chief Woodfork appointed the first female Deputy Chief of the New Orleans Police Department, Yvonne Bechet, and the first female district commander, Carol Hewitt, who was assigned to the Seventh District. He later appointed Commander Hewitt as the first female commander of the Narcotics Drug Abuse unit in NOPD history.

Throughout his administration, Chief Woodfork also sought creative programs and concepts to target the juvenile crime problem and the growing level of violence by including programming in education, music and sports, as the three most important ingredients needed to lead young people away from crime.

Chief Woodfork was a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He was a member of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCAA), Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), International Association of Chiefs of Police, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), New Orleans Black Organization of Police (BOP) and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement, (NOBLE).

Chief Woodfork retired in 1991 to spend more time with his family. Prior to his retirement, he obtained funding for 200 new officers, along with the purchase of additional cars and equipment stating, "This is a chance for me to give my successor a better start than I had."

Though he may be gone, I know that Chief Woodfork is still watching over his beloved New Orleans community and beloved family.

**HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZETA OMICRON CHAPTER OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY**

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize and congratulate the Zeta

Omicron Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. on its 75th anniversary.

After being chartered in 1947, at what was then known as Hampton Institute (now Hampton University), Zeta Omicron began a journey to what would be one of Hampton University's finest organizations and a bold representation for positive influence within the community.

Since its beginning, its members have continued to display excellence in their commitment to the chapter's founding principles, which are centered on confronting discrimination in education and the military. As a service and social organization, the Zeta Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Inc. has continued to uplift youth and families through countless acts of service, including raising money for scholarships for high school students every year.

In addition to their scholarship program, members also provide meals to families each holiday season and support other organizations through charitable fundraising efforts to advance equity in education and opportunity. The Zeta Omicron chapter also provides youth mentoring programs, which include a conference dedicated to helping students understand the value of education, while pairing those students to important resources. Over two decades ago, the brothers of Zeta Omicron entered the adopt-a-street program and continues this community cleanup effort on Marcella Road throughout the year.

As a historically black university, Hampton University has a rich history of excellence and integrity, paired with incredible academic achievement. The Zeta Omicron chapter contributes to that success. What began as an idea from five founding members—Dr. Fred Inge, Dr. Don A. Davis, Herman G. Cook, Arthur Burke, and Colonel William H. Moses—has flourished as a robust organization built to successfully engage with some of the most important community priorities needed to build a better future. Members of this prestigious organization go on to succeed in careers in government, higher education, medicine, law, and more. It is no surprise that the chapter's historical mission of removing discrimination from the education system and the military continues today as a distinguished voice in the Hampton Roads community.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and honor the Zeta Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi on the celebration of its 75th anniversary and commend its members for their service and achievements over the years.

**HONORING MEXICAN AMERICAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST MARY ESTHER BERNAL**

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Mary Esther Bernal who passed away on March 10, 2022. For decades, Mrs. Bernal was integral to the advancement of Mexican American and Latino rights in Texas. Her work changed the lives of countless Texans, and she will be greatly missed.

Mary Esther Bernal was born on March 21, 1935, in San Antonio, Texas. She earned her

undergraduate and master's degrees from Our Lady of the Lake University. A talented pianist who was passionate about using music to connect with others, Ms. Bernal taught choir in San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) during an era when speaking Spanish in Texas schools was against the law.

Instead of bowing to pressures to suppress the culture of her city and her Mexican-American students, Mrs. Bernal celebrated both. Together with her husband, State Senator Joe Bernal, she pushed Texas schools to provide bilingual instruction to English language learners and end English-only laws. As a community leader, Mrs. Bernal served two terms on the SAISD Board of Trustees. Mrs. Bernal received numerous honors for her work as an educator and civic leader.

Mrs. Bernal was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in 1991 and the National Hispanic Heritage Hall of Honor in 2010 for her contributions to education. Mrs. Bernal is survived by her husband Joe Bernal, sons Richard and Patrick Bernal, daughter Rebecca Villarreal, six grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her youngest son, Bernard Bernal, who passed away in 2016.

Madam Speaker, San Antonio mourns the loss of a Hispanic icon. We will miss the music she played and the powerful voice she projected for equality. Her efforts benefited countless Texas families, including mine. Although she has passed, we take comfort remembering her through our heritage. I thank Mrs. Bernal for her fight. She will be missed. (Agredézco a la Señora Bernal, gracias por su lucha. Le vamos extrañar.)

**HONORING TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY'S AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL RESOURCES POLICY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Texas A&M University's (TAMU) Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy (ANRP) Internship Program for the admirable work they do to provide students a front-row seat to experience and understand the policy-making process.

For over 30 years, the ANRP internship program has provided students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with the chance to immerse themselves in the legislative process at the state, federal, and international levels. This program helps students obtain internships in a variety of settings that match their career goals in Washington, D.C.; Austin, Texas; and Rome, Italy, and provides the opportunity to use their academic knowledge in a professional setting while gaining real-world experience.

From 2013 to 2021, I had the pleasure of hosting 25 ANRP interns in my Washington, D.C. office, many of whom went on to pursue careers in teaching, law, agriculture, and other commendable fields of work. Thanks to the excellent education they received at TAMU and the unparalleled experience they gained through the ANRP program, two of those students, Mickeala Carter and Hannah Followill,